

Remarks

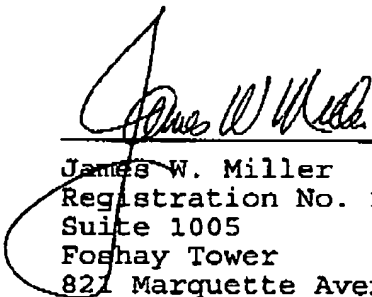
Prosecution in the above-identified patent application is being reopened to reconsider the patentability of various claims that correspond to proposed counts in a previously requested interference. If the claims corresponding to the proposed counts are not patentable to the Applicants on prior art grounds other than for U.S. Patent 5,794,522 to Reimers, the patent with which an interference was requested, the proposed interference should not be declared. SPE Paul Dickson is fully familiar with this situation and has indicated that the PTO will reconsider the patentability of the previously filed claims in view of various prior art submissions made by the Applicants.

U.S. Patent 6,857,253 issued on February 22, 2005 on an application that claims priority back to Serial Number 08/557,778 which matured into U.S. Patent 5,794,522 to Reimers. To preserve the Applicants rights under 35 USC 135(b)(1), new claims 26-29 have been added to this application which copy claims 1, 9, 12 and 19 from U.S Patent 6,857,253.

Obviously, when the PTO reconsiders the patentability of the claims pending in the above-identified patent application, such reconsideration must also include newly added claims 26-29.

Respectfully presented,

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